

II. Rejection of Claims 1 to 8 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1 to 8 were rejected under 35 U.S. C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicants' disclosure in the prior art in view of U.S. Patent 6,386,270 ("Kandev"), and further in view of U.S. Patent 4,475,721 ("Pamart") and U.S. Patent 3,773,503 ("Kranz"). Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of references do not render obvious claims 1 to 8 for the following reasons.

Applicants respectfully submit that a certified copy of the priority documents in accordance with MPEP 201.15 was submitted on December 3, 2001. Applicants herewith provide a certified translation in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.55. Applicants respectfully submit that the perfection of priority, effectively predates Kandev as a reference. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections to claims 1 to 8.

II. Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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